

CASE: 1140

=== ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS ===

2 August 1975

ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS: WILLIAM CHOMYK 1140-0-01, AND ROBERT P. RIGGINS 1140-0-02.

=== MAJOR COORDINATE CHANGE ===

17 April 1975

COORDINATES CHANGED FROM YD578057 TO YD585055 BASED ON MESSAGE, 366 TFW DNG AB RVN, DTG 220655Z APR 68, SUBJ: FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT COMBAT LOSS.

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

4 October 1993

ON 11 MAY 93, A JOINT U.S./VIETNAM INVESTIGATION TEAM TRAVELED TO HONG CHAU HAMLET, HONG TIEN VILLAGE, HUONG DIEN DISTRICT, THUA THIEN-HUE PROVINCE TO CONDUCT A SITE SURVEY OF THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF CASE 1140. THERE WERE NO WITNESSES FOR THIS CASE. AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, THE AREA WAS UNINHABITED. SINCE THE WAR, SEVERAL FAMILIES HAVE ESTABLISHED RESIDENCE IN THE AREA. A LOCAL RESIDENT ACTED AS THE TEAM'S GUIDE. HE POINTED OUT UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE IN THE AREA WHICH WAS MARKED AND SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED TO THE VIETNAMESE TEAM LEADER. THE ONLY SIGNS OF MATERIAL EVIDENCE DISCOVERED WAS UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE. (REF 6)

=== ARCHIVAL RESEARCH INFORMATION ===

19 May 1993

TWO PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE CENTRAL ARMY MUSEUM CORRELATE TO REFNO 1140: A PHOTO OF UNIDENTIFIABLE AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE WITH VIETNAMESE ANNOTATIONS (ROLL 32/Frames 19-20). CORRELATION IS BASED ON ANNOTATIONS OF AIRCRAFT TYPE, INCIDENT DATE, GENERAL LOCATION, NAME AND RANK OF REFNO 1140. (REF 5)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 16 AUGUST 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1141	(ACCNO 1167)	Status: (F) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Name: VINSON, BOBBY GENE		Date Status assigned: 12 Sep 1977
Nationality AMERICAN	Race CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit DATA
Service AIR FORCE	Sex MALE	Blood type A +
Grade 05	Hair BROWN	Complexion RUDDY
SSAN DATA	Eyes BROWN	Weapon .38 CAL PISTOL
Serial No DATA	Height 68 in /1.73 mtrs	Weapon No K585776
Birth date DATA	Weight 160 lb / 72.5 kg	Duty pos PILOT
Home State TEXAS	Religion OTHER	PW Camp \$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

	INCIDENT LOCATION (0)	LAST KNOWN LOCATION (1)
Site Type:	CRASH SITE	
UTM:	48QXE587465	48QXE565480
Lat/Long:	173603N / 1062945E	173653N / 1062831E
Country:	NORTH VIETNAM	
Military Region:	4	
Mission Province:	QUANG BINH	
(formerly):		
Mission District:	BO TRACH	
Mission Date:	24 Apr 1968	
Mission Category:	3	
Local Analysis:	None.	Populated area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Aug 87, Nov 86
Investigations: Apr 90, Apr 92
Surveys: Apr 90, Apr 92, Jun 92
Excavations: Jun 92, Jun 93
Additional Information Obtained: Jun 92
Vessey Case: NO
Case type: DISCREPANCY
Survivability: (3) Unknown

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: F4D	Serial: 7541
Crash Type: Enemy action	Engine Type: J7915
Call Sign: GUNFIGHTER 04	1 Serial: 439124
Year: 66	2 Serial: 439127

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

= Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 16 AUGUST 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1141 (ACCNO 1014) Status: (F) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Name: NAME Date Status assigned: 8 Jun 1978

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	DATA
Service	AIR FORCE	Sex	MALE	Blood type	A -
Grade		Hair	BROWN	Complexion	RUDDY
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BLUE	Weapon	.38 CAL PISTOL
Serial No	DATA	Height	72 in / 1.83 mtrs	Weapon No	K662496
Birth date	DATA	Weight	165 lb / 74.7 kg	Duty pos	COPilot
Home State		Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

	INCIDENT LOCATION (0)	LAST KNOWN LOCATION (1)
Site Type:	CRASH SITE	
UTM:	48QXE587465	48QXE565480
Lat/Long:	173603N / 1062945E	173653N / 1062831E
Country:	NORTH VIETNAM	
Military Region:	4	
Mission Province:	QUANG BINH	
(formerly):		
Mission District:	BO TRACH	
Mission Date:	24 Apr 1968	
Mission Category:	3	
Local Analysis:	None.	Populated area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Aug 87, Nov 86
Investigations: Apr 90, Apr 92
Surveys: Apr 90, Apr 92, Jun 92
Excavations: Jun 92, Jun 93
Additional Information Obtained: Jun 92
Vessey Case: NO
Case type: DISCREPANCY
Survivability: (3) Unknown

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type:	F4D	Serial:	7541
Crash Type:	Enemy action	Engine Type:	J7915
Call Sign:	GUNFIGHTER 04	1 Serial:	439124
Year:	66	2 Serial:	439127

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

= Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.

CASE: 1141

=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

25 August 1975

ON 24 MARCH 1968 LT COL BOBBY G. VINSON, AIRCRAFT COMMANDER
NAME WERE ONBOARD THE NUMBER TWO AIRCRAFT
(#66-7541) CALL SIGN GUNFIGHTER FOUR IN A FLIGHT OF TWO F4D'S ON A COMBAT
MISSION OVER NORTH VIETNAM. DURING THE MISSION GUNFIGHTER THREE (LEADER)
HAD MADE TWO FLARE PASSES OVER THE TARGET WHILE GUNFIGHTER FOUR WAS
ORBITING THE AREA SEARCHING FOR OTHER TARGETS. GUNFIGHTER THREE WAS
POSITIONED FOR A THIRD PASS WHEN GUNFIGHTER FOUR RADIOED (NUMBER THREE)
THAT HE WAS GOING TO DESCEND TO A LOWER ALTITUDE FOR A CLOSER LOOK. WHILE
GUNFIGHTER THREE WAS MAKING THE THIRD FLARE DROP AT 4,000 FEET;

THEY OBSERVED A LARGE FIREBALL ON THE GROUND AT GRID COORDINATES (GC) XE
562 479. GUNFIGHTER THREE IMMEDIATELY TRIED TO ESTABLISH RADIO CONTACT
WITH GUNFIGHTER FOUR ON TACTICAL FREQUENCY AND MONITORED THE GUARD
FREQUENCY FOR BEEPER SIGNALS, HOWEVER, NO CONTACT WAS MADE AND NO
PARACHUTES WERE SEEN. GUNFIGHTER THREE CONTINUED TO FLY OVER THE AREA
UNTIL SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS WERE INITIATED. THE SUSPECTED CRASH SITE
WAS LOCATED NEAR A HEAVILY TRAVELED ROAD IN A HIGHLY POPULATED AREA. (REF
1)

ON 4 DECEMBER 1972, A SOURCE REPORTED THAT AT ABOUT 0100 HOURS ON THE
NIGHT OF 23 OR 24 MARCH 1968 HE HAD OBSERVED TWO F4 JETS FLYING OVER QUANG
LOC VILLAGE, QUONG BINH PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM. BY THE LIGHT OF FLARES
THE SOURCE SAW ONE JET BLOW UP IN MID AIR AFTER BEING HIT BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT
FIRE. THE NEXT MORNING THE SOURCE WENT TO THE CRASH SITE AND SAW THE
BODIES OF TWO DEAD PILOTS LYING IN A RICE PADDY AT PHU TICH HAMLET, QUANG
LOC VILLAGE, QUANG BINH PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM. THE BODIES OF THE DEAD
PILOTS WERE EVENTUALLY BURIED NEARBY, AND THEIR GRAVE SITE WAS ENCLOSED
WITH A FENCE OF BAMBOO BRANCHES. (REF 2)

(INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT CLOSELY CORRELATES TO THE INCIDENT OF LT COL
VINSON NAME).

DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED
ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE.
THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE
FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION
AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. LT COL VINSON NAME ARE
CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

=== REFERENCES ===

25 August 1975

REFERENCES: <1> RPT, 366TH CSG (CBPO-PA), AF FORM 484. W/STATEMENTS,

CASE: 1141

30 APR 68. <2> RPT, 18 DEC 72. <3> CDR JCRC,
BARBERS PT. HI, 182202Z SEP 91. <4> 200815Z JUL 92, CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK
TH. <5> CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH 240354Z JUL 93.

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

28 February 1986

A NEGOTIATION FOLDER ON *NAME* AND BOBBY G. VINSON WAS
PASSED DURING THE 29 OCT - 1 NOV 86 JCRC/VNOSMIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN
HANOI.

4 December 1987

A CASE NARRATIVE PERTAINING TO BOTH PARTIES WAS PASSED BY JCRC ON 4
AUG 87 TO THE SRV EMBASSY IN BANGKOK PURSUANT TO AGREEMENTS REACHED
BETWEEN GENERAL VESSEY AND SRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH.

=== ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS ===

25 August 1975

ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS: *NAME* BOBBY G. VINSON
1141

=== MAJOR COORDINATE CHANGE ===

5 June 1975

BURIAL SITE COORDINATES OF XE 565 480 FOR REFNO 1141
ENTERED BASED ON REPORT DATED 18 DECEMBER 1972.

5 September 1975

CHANGE LOCATION TO XE 562 479 BASED ON AF 484, & 366 TFW DANANG AB
241615Z APR 68.

8 July 1976

LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF XE565480 ENTERED BASED ON RPT, 18
DEC 72.

CASE: 1141 === JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

2 November 1992

AN EVALUATION OF THE SITE WAS CONDUCTED DURING THE 18TH PERIOD OF
JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY (INCLEMENT WEATHER PRECLUDED A FULL RECOVERY OF THE
AREA). AT THIS TIME, THREE WITNESSES PROVIDED FIRST-HAND INFORMATION
CONCERNING THE PLANE CRASH AND TWO LOCALLY-ORGANIZED RECOVERIES. THE
INCIDENT WITNESS REPORTED THAT BETWEEN 1900 AND 2000 HOURS (DATE UNKNOWN)
DURING APRIL OR MAY 1968, AN AIRPLANE CRASHED IN THE VICINITY OF GRID
COORDINATES XE587465. THE LOCAL POPULACE DUG UP THE SITE ON TWO OCCASIONS
(MAY-JULY 1987 AND 5 MARCH 1991, RESPECTIVELY). ACCORDING TO THE TWO
EXCAVATION WITNESSES AND VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES, ALL REMAINS AND OTHER
ITEMS RECOVERED DURING THE DIGS WERE TURNED OVER TO U.S. PERSONNEL DURING
THE 17TH PERIOD OF JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY. THERE HAS BEEN NO POSITIVE
IDENTIFICATION OF THE REMAINS. NO HUMAN REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE
RECOVERED DURING THE 18TH PERIOD OF FIELD ACTIVITY. HOWEVER, THE WRECKAGE
RECOVERED AT THE SITE IS CONSISTENT WITH AN F4 AIRCRAFT AND SUPPORTS THE
ASSERTIONS THAT NO CREW EJECTIONS WERE MADE. BASED ON THE MATERIAL
EVIDENCE AND WITNESSES' ACCOUNTS, BELIEVE THIS SITE CORRELATES TO CASE
1141. RECOMMEND FULL EXCAVATION OF THE SITE. (REF 4)

13 August 1993

DURING THE PERIOD 15 JUL-16 JUL 93, A PARTIAL EXCAVATION WAS CONDUCTED
NEAR VAN TRACH VILLAGE, BO TRACH DISTRICT, QUANG BINH PROVINCE, SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. THE CRASH SITE HAS BEEN HEAVILY SCAVENGED AND DUG BY
THE LOCAL POPULACE ON TWO PREVIOUS OCCASIONS (MAY-JUL 87 AND MAR 91) AND
WAS PARTIALLY EXCAVATED DURING THE 18TH JFA. THE SITE IS LOCATED IN THE
VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES 48QXE5905046288. GRID COORDINATES WERE
VERIFIED USING THE TRIMBLE TRIMPACK RECEIVER FOR THE GLOBAL POSITIONING
SYSTEM, TRACKING SEVEN SATELLITES. THE INTENT OF THE EXCAVATION WAS TO SIFT
AS MUCH OF THE BACKFILL MOUNDS AS POSSIBLE IN THE TIME ALLOTTED TO ASSIST
IN THE SUBSEQUENT COMPLETE EXCAVATION OF THE SITE (TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED
FOR THE 25TH JFA). DURING THE EXCAVATION EFFORT, ADDITIONAL PERSONAL
FLYING EQUIPMENT WAS RECOVERED, BUT NO HUMAN REMAINS WERE FOUND. (REF 5)

=== ARCHIVAL RESEARCH INFORMATION ===

26 October 1991

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS TAKEN FROM BO TRACH DIST. DOCUMENTS
DURING THE 14TH ITERATION. "5. 2300 HRS, 24 APR 68; PEOPLE'S MILITIA OF
DAI TRACH VILLAGE; 1 F4; 2 KILLED; ; CRASHED IN VAN TRACH (VILLAGE)." THIS
INFORMATION CORRELATES TO REFNO 1141, *NAME*
AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL BOBBY G. VINSON. THIS CORRELATION IS BASED ON
LOCATION, AIRCRAFT TYPE, DATE AND TIME OF DAY. DURING THE 10TH ITERATION
THE JOINT TEAM OBTAINED INFORMATION CONSISTENT WITH THIS ENTRY AND ALSO
CORRELATED TO REFNO 1141. (REF 3)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 25 OCTOBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1141-1-02 (ACCNO 1167) Status: (F) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Name: VINSON, BOBBY GENE Date Status assigned: 12 Sep 1977

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	
Service	AIR FORCE	Sex	MALE	Blood type	A +
Grade	05	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	RUDDY
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BROWN	Weapon	.38 CAL PISTOL
Serial No	000020388	Height	68 in / 1.73 mtrs	Weapon No	K585776
Birth date	17 Jan 1928	Weight	160 lb / 72.5 kg	Duty pos	PILOT
Home State	TEXAS	Religion	OTHER	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0) LAST KNOWN LOCATION (1)

Site Type:	CRASH SITE	
UTM:	48QXE587465	48QXE565480
Lat/Long:	173603N / 1062945E	173653N / 1062831E
Country:	NORTH VIETNAM	
Military Region:	4	
Mission Province:	QUANG BINH	
(formerly):		
Mission District:	BO TRACH	
Mission Date:	24 Apr 1968	
Mission Category:	3	
Local Analysis:	None.	Populated area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Aug 87, Nov 86
Investigations: Apr 90, Apr 92
Surveys: Apr 90, Apr 92, Jun 92
Excavations: Jun 92, Jun 93, Aug 93
Additional Information Obtained: Jun 92
Vessey Case: NO
Case type: DISCREPANCY
Survivability: (3) Unknown

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: F4D	Serial: 7541
Crash Type: Enemy action	Engine Type: J7915
Call Sign: GUNFIGHTER 04	1 Serial: 439124
Year: 66	2 Serial: 439127

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

= Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 25 OCTOBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: NAME Status: (F) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Name: Date Status assigned: 8 Jun 1978

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	
Service	AIR FORCE	Sex	MALE	Blood type	A -
Grade	02	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	RUDDY
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BLUE	Weapon	.38 CAL PISTOL
Serial No	DATA	Height	72 in / 1.83 mtrs	Weapon No	K662496
Birth date	DATA	Weight	165 lb / 74.7 kg	Duty pos	COPILLOT
Home State		Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0) LAST KNOWN LOCATION (1)

Site Type:	CRASH SITE	
UTM:	48QXE587465	48QXE565480
Lat/Long:	173603N / 1062945E	173653N / 1062831E
Country:	NORTH VIETNAM	
Military Region:	4	
Mission Province:	QUANG BINH	
(formerly):		
Mission District:	BO TRACH	
Mission Date:	24 Apr 1968	
Mission Category:	3	
Local Analysis:	None.	Populated area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Aug 87, Nov 86
Investigations: Apr 90, Apr 92
Surveys: Apr 90, Apr 92, Jun 92
Excavations: Jun 92, Jun 93, Aug 93
Additional Information Obtained: Jun 92
Vessey Case: NO
Case type: DISCREPANCY
Survivability: (3) Unknown

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: F4D	Serial: 7541
Crash Type: Enemy action	Engine Type: J7915
Call Sign: GUNFIGHTER 04	1 Serial: 439124
Year: 66	2 Serial: 439127

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

= Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.

CASE: 1141

=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

25 August 1975

ON 24 MARCH 1968 LT COL BOBBY G. VINSON, AIRCRAFT COMMANDER, AND
NAME, PILOT, WERE ONBOARD THE NUMBER TWO AIRCRAFT
(#66-7541) CALL SIGN GUNFIGHTER FOUR IN A FLIGHT OF TWO F4D'S ON A COMBAT
MISSION OVER NORTH VIETNAM. DURING THE MISSION GUNFIGHTER THREE (LEADER)
HAD MADE TWO FLARE PASSES OVER THE TARGET WHILE GUNFIGHTER FOUR WAS
ORBITING THE AREA SEARCHING FOR OTHER TARGETS. GUNFIGHTER THREE WAS
POSITIONED FOR A THIRD PASS WHEN GUNFIGHTER FOUR RADIOED (NUMBER THREE)
THAT HE WAS GOING TO DESCEND TO A LOWER ALTITUDE FOR A CLOSER LOOK. WHILE
GUNFIGHTER THREE WAS MAKING THE THIRD FLARE DROP AT 4,000 FEET;

THEY OBSERVED A LARGE FIREBALL ON THE GROUND AT GRID COORDINATES (GC) XE
562 479. GUNFIGHTER THREE IMMEDIATELY TRIED TO ESTABLISH RADIO CONTACT
WITH GUNFIGHTER FOUR ON TACTICAL FREQUENCY AND MONITORED THE GUARD
FREQUENCY FOR BEEPER SIGNALS, HOWEVER, NO CONTACT WAS MADE AND NO
PARACHUTES WERE SEEN. GUNFIGHTER THREE CONTINUED TO FLY OVER THE AREA
UNTIL SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS WERE INITIATED. THE SUSPECTED CRASH SITE
WAS LOCATED NEAR A HEAVILY TRAVELED ROAD IN A HIGHLY POPULATED AREA. (REF
1)

ON 4 DECEMBER 1972, A SOURCE REPORTED THAT AT ABOUT 0100 HOURS ON THE
NIGHT OF 23 OR 24 MARCH 1968 HE HAD OBSERVED TWO F4 JETS FLYING OVER QUANG
LOC VILLAGE, QUANG BINH PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM. BY THE LIGHT OF FLARES
THE SOURCE SAW ONE JET BLOW UP IN MID AIR AFTER BEING HIT BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT
FIRE. THE NEXT MORNING THE SOURCE WENT TO THE CRASH SITE AND SAW THE
BODIES OF TWO DEAD PILOTS LYING IN A RICE PADDY AT PHU TICH HAMLET, QUANG
LOC VILLAGE, QUANG BINH PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM. THE BODIES OF THE DEAD
PILOTS WERE EVENTUALLY BURIED NEARBY, AND THEIR GRAVE SITE WAS ENCLOSED
WITH A FENCE OF BAMBOO BRANCHES. (REF 2)

(INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT CLOSELY CORRELATES TO THE INCIDENT OF LT COL
VINSON AND NAME).

DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED
ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE.
THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE
FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION
AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. LT COL VINSON AND 1LT PARKER ARE
CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

=== REFERENCES ===

25 August 1975

REFERENCES: <1> RPT, 366TH CSG (CBPO-PA), AF FORM 484. W/STATEMENTS,

CASE: 1141

30 APR 68. <2> RPT, CAS SGN. FVS-31, 809, 18 DEC 72. <3> CDR JCRC,
BARBERS PT. HI, 182202Z SEP 91. <4> 200815Z JUL 92, CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK
TH. <5> CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH 240354Z JUL 93. <6> 061028Z JUN 90 JCRC
LIAISON BANGKOK TH. <7> CJTFFA, DET ONE 281205Z MAY 92. <8> 240556Z SEP
93 CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH.

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

28 February 1986

A NEGOTIATION FOLDER ON NAME AND BOBBY G. VINSON WAS
PASSED DURING THE 29 OCT - 1 NOV 86 JCRC/VNOSMIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN
HANOI.

4 December 1987

A CASE NARRATIVE PERTAINING TO BOTH PARTIES WAS PASSED BY JCRC ON 4
AUG 87 TO THE SRV EMBASSY IN BANGKOK PURSUANT TO AGREEMENTS REACHED
BETWEEN GENERAL VESSEY AND SRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH.

=== ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS ===

25 August 1975

ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS: NAME, AND BOBBY G. VINSON
1141-1-02.

=== MAJOR COORDINATE CHANGE ===

5 June 1975

BURIAL SITE COORDINATES OF XE 565 480 FOR DATA AND
1141-1-02 ENTERED BASED ON REPORT FVS-31,809. SRF, DATED 18 DECEMBER 1972.

5 September 1975

CHANGE LOCATION TO XE 562 479 BASED ON AF 484, & 366 TFW DANANG AB
241615Z APR 68.

8 July 1976

LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF XE565480 ENTERED BASED ON RPT, FVS-31809, 18
DEC 72.

CASE: 1141

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

2 November 1992

AN EVALUATION OF THE SITE WAS CONDUCTED DURING THE 18TH PERIOD OF JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY (INCLEMENT WEATHER PRECLUDED A FULL RECOVERY OF THE AREA). AT THIS TIME, THREE WITNESSES PROVIDED FIRST-HAND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PLANE CRASH AND TWO LOCALLY-ORGANIZED RECOVERIES. THE INCIDENT WITNESS REPORTED THAT BETWEEN 1900 AND 2000 HOURS (DATE UNKNOWN) DURING APRIL OR MAY 1968, AN AIRPLANE CRASHED IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES XE587465. THE LOCAL POPULACE DUG UP THE SITE ON TWO OCCASIONS (MAY-JULY 1987 AND 5 MARCH 1991, RESPECTIVELY). ACCORDING TO THE TWO EXCAVATION WITNESSES AND VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES, ALL REMAINS AND OTHER ITEMS RECOVERED DURING THE DIGS WERE TURNED OVER TO U.S. PERSONNEL DURING THE 17TH PERIOD OF JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY. THERE HAS BEEN NO POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THE REMAINS. NO HUMAN REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE RECOVERED DURING THE 18TH PERIOD OF FIELD ACTIVITY. HOWEVER, THE WRECKAGE RECOVERED AT THE SITE IS CONSISTENT WITH AN F4 AIRCRAFT AND SUPPORTS THE ASSERTIONS THAT NO CREW EJECTIONS WERE MADE. BASED ON THE MATERIAL EVIDENCE AND WITNESSES' ACCOUNTS, BELIEVE THIS SITE CORRELATES TO CASE 1141. RECOMMEND FULL EXCAVATION OF THE SITE. (REF 4)

13 August 1993

DURING THE PERIOD 15 JUL-16 JUL 93, A PARTIAL EXCAVATION WAS CONDUCTED NEAR VAN TRACH VILLAGE, BO TRACH DISTRICT, QUANG BINH PROVINCE, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. THE CRASH SITE HAS BEEN HEAVILY SCAVENGED AND DUG BY THE LOCAL POPULACE ON TWO PREVIOUS OCCASIONS (MAY-JUL 87 AND MAR 91) AND WAS PARTIALLY EXCAVATED DURING THE 18TH JFA. THE SITE IS LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES 48QXE5905046288. GRID COORDINATES WERE VERIFIED USING THE TRIMBLE TRIMPACK RECEIVER FOR THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM, TRACKING SEVEN SATELLITES. THE INTENT OF THE EXCAVATION WAS TO SIFT AS MUCH OF THE BACKFILL MOUNDS AS POSSIBLE IN THE TIME ALLOTTED TO ASSIST IN THE SUBSEQUENT COMPLETE EXCAVATION OF THE SITE (TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE 25TH JFA). DURING THE EXCAVATION EFFORT, ADDITIONAL PERSONAL FLYING EQUIPMENT WAS RECOVERED, BUT NO HUMAN REMAINS WERE FOUND. (REF 5)

9 September 1993

DURING THE 10TH JFA, THE JOINT TEAM OBTAINED INFORMATION CONCERNING A NIGHT TIME F4 CRASH. THE TEAM DETERMINED THAT THERE WERE THREE NIGHT TIME F4 CRASHES WITHIN 10 KILOMETERS OF THE CRASH SITE SURVEYED BY THE TEAM. NO POSITIVE CORRELATION CAN BE MADE TO ANY OF THESE THREE INCIDENTS, HOWEVER, A POSSIBLE CORRELATION TO CASE 1141 EXISTS. (REF 6)

14 September 1993

TWO LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS PROVIDED REMAINS AND MATERIAL EVIDENCE THEY CLAIM TO HAVE RECOVERED DURING A LOCALLY AUTHORIZED EXCAVATION IN MAR-JUN 91.

CASE: 1141

THE SITE THEY SHOWED THE TEAM WAS INITIALLY SURVEYED DURING THE 7TH JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY. A THIRD PERSON PROVIDED ADDITIONAL PORTIONS OF REMAINS, ALLEGEDLY TAKEN FROM THE SAME SITE DURING AN EARLIER EXCAVATION, WHILE THE TEAM WAS CONDUCTING A SURVEY. THE REMAINS APPEAR CONSISTENT WITH AN AIRCRAFT FATALITY. THE REMAINS, MATERIAL EVIDENCE, AND INFORMATION OBTAINED IN THE PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION OF THIS SITE SUGGEST A CORRELATION TO REFNO 1141. (REF 7)

13 October 1993

DURING THE PERIOD 30 AUG - 8 SEP 93, RE1 CONDUCTED A JOINT EXCAVATION IN THE VICINITY OF XOM RAY HAMLET, VAN TRACH VILLAGE, BO TRACH DISTRICT, QUANG BINH PROVINCE. THE SITE IS LOCATED AT GRID COORDINATE XE5905046288. THE SITE HAD BEEN EXCAVATED ON FOUR SEPARATE OCCASIONS. THE CURRENT EXCAVATION CONCENTRATED ITS EFFORT ON THE MOUNDS OF BACKFILL LEFT FROM PREVIOUS EXCAVATIONS. THIS EXCAVATION RESULTED IN FINDING TWO PIECES OF HUMAN TIBIA, MATERIAL EVIDENCE AND ASSOCIATED WRECKAGE CONSISTENT WITH THAT OF AN F4D AIRCRAFT. THE TEAM ALSO FOUND AN ENGINE OVERHAUL DATA PLATE SERIAL NUMBER 439127 CONFIRMING THIS IS THE CRASH SITE ASSOCIATED WITH CASE 1141. ANALYSIS OF LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT FOUND DURING THIS AND PREVIOUS EXCAVATIONS INDICATE THAT BOTH AIRCREW WERE IN THE AIRCRAFT AT IMPACT. THE SITE WAS CLOSED BY THE TEAM LEADER AND ANTHROPOLOGIST ON 8 SEP 93. (REF 8)

=== ARCHIVAL RESEARCH INFORMATION ===

26 October 1991

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS TAKEN FROM BO TRACH DIST. DOCUMENTS DURING THE 14TH ITERATION. "5. 2300 HRS, 24 APR 68; PEOPLE'S MILITIA OF DAI TRACH VILLAGE; 1 F4; 2 KILLED; ; CRASHED IN VAN TRACH (VILLAGE)." THIS INFORMATION CORRELATES TO REFNO 1141, ^{NAME} AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL BOBBY G. VINSON. THIS CORRELATION IS BASED ON LOCATION, AIRCRAFT TYPE, DATE AND TIME OF DAY. DURING THE 10TH ITERATION THE JOINT TEAM OBTAINED INFORMATION CONSISTENT WITH THIS ENTRY AND ALSO CORRELATED TO REFNO 1141. (REF 3)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 12 NOVEMBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1141-1-02 (ACCNO 1167) Status: (F) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Name: VINSON, BOBBY GENE Date Status assigned: 12 Sep 1977

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	
Service	AIR FORCE	Sex	MALE	Blood type	A +
Grade	O5	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	RUDDY
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BROWN	Weapon	.38 CAL PISTOL
Serial No	000020388	Height	68 in /1.73 mtrs	Weapon No	K585776
Birth date	17 Jan 1928	Weight	160 lb / 72.5 kg	Duty pos	PILOT
Home State	TEXAS	Religion	OTHER	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0) LAST KNOWN LOCATION (1)

Site Type:	CRASH SITE	
UTM:	48QXE587465	48QXE565480
Lat/Long:	173603N / 1062945E	173653N / 1062831E
Country:	NORTH VIETNAM	
Military Region:	4	
Mission Province:	QUANG BINH	
(formerly):		
Mission District:	BO TRACH	
Mission Date:	24 Apr 1968	
Mission Category:	3	
Local Analysis:	None.	Populated area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Remains Repatriated: YES
Folders Passed: Aug 87, Nov 86
Investigations: Apr 90, Apr 92
Surveys: Apr 90, Apr 92, Jun 92
Excavations: Jun 92, Jun 93, Aug 93
Additional Information Obtained: Jun 92
Vessey Case: NO
Case type: DISCREPANCY
Survivability: (3) Unknown

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: F4D	Serial: 7541
Crash Type: Enemy action	Engine Type: J7915
Call Sign: GUNFIGHTER 04	1 Serial: 439124
Year: 66	2 Serial: 439127

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

= Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 12 NOVEMBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: NAME Status: (F) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Name: Date Status assigned: 8 Jun 1978

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	
Service	AIR FORCE	Sex	MALE	Blood type	A -
Grade	O2	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	RUDDY
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BLUE	Weapon	.38 CAL PISTOL
Serial No	DATA	Height	72 in /1.83 mtrs	Weapon No	K662496
Birth date	DATA	Weight	165 lb / 74.7 kg	Duty pos	COPILOT
Home State		Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0) LAST KNOWN LOCATION (1)

Site Type:	CRASH SITE	
UTM:	48QXE587465	48QXE565480
Lat/Long:	173603N / 1062945E	173653N / 1062831E
Country:	NORTH VIETNAM	
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(formerly):		
Mission District:	BO TRACH	
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CASE: 1141

=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

25 August 1975

ON 24 APRIL 1968 LT COL BOBBY G. VINSON, AIRCRAFT COMMANDER, AND
NAME, PILOT, WERE ONBOARD THE NUMBER TWO AIRCRAFT
(#66-7541) CALL SIGN GUNFIGHTER FOUR IN A FLIGHT OF TWO F4D'S ON A COMBAT
MISSION OVER NORTH VIETNAM. DURING THE MISSION GUNFIGHTER THREE (LEADER)
HAD MADE TWO FLARE PASSES OVER THE TARGET WHILE GUNFIGHTER FOUR WAS
ORBITING THE AREA SEARCHING FOR OTHER TARGETS. GUNFIGHTER THREE WAS
POSITIONED FOR A THIRD PASS WHEN GUNFIGHTER FOUR RADIOED (NUMBER THREE)
THAT HE WAS GOING TO DESCEND TO A LOWER ALTITUDE FOR A CLOSER LOOK. WHILE
GUNFIGHTER THREE WAS MAKING THE THIRD FLARE DROP AT 4,000 FEET;

THEY OBSERVED A LARGE FIREBALL ON THE GROUND AT GRID COORDINATES (GC) XE
562 479. GUNFIGHTER THREE IMMEDIATELY TRIED TO ESTABLISH RADIO CONTACT
WITH GUNFIGHTER FOUR ON TACTICAL FREQUENCY AND MONITORED THE GUARD
FREQUENCY FOR BEEPER SIGNALS, HOWEVER, NO CONTACT WAS MADE AND NO
PARACHUTES WERE SEEN. GUNFIGHTER THREE CONTINUED TO FLY OVER THE AREA
UNTIL SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS WERE INITIATED. THE SUSPECTED CRASH SITE
WAS LOCATED NEAR A HEAVILY TRAVELED ROAD IN A HIGHLY POPULATED AREA. (REF
1)

ON 4 DECEMBER 1972, A SOURCE REPORTED THAT AT ABOUT 0100 HOURS ON THE
NIGHT OF 23 OR 24 MARCH 1968 HE HAD OBSERVED TWO F4 JETS FLYING OVER QUANG
LOC VILLAGE, QUONG BINH PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM. BY THE LIGHT OF FLARES
THE SOURCE SAW ONE JET BLOW UP IN MID AIR AFTER BEING HIT BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT
FIRE. THE NEXT MORNING THE SOURCE WENT TO THE CRASH SITE AND SAW THE
BODIES OF TWO DEAD PILOTS LYING IN A RICE PADDY AT PHU TICH HAMLET, QUANG
LOC VILLAGE, QUANG BINH PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM. THE BODIES OF THE DEAD
PILOTS WERE EVENTUALLY BURIED NEARBY, AND THEIR GRAVE SITE WAS ENCLOSED
WITH A FENCE OF BAMBOO BRANCHES. (REF 2)

(INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT CLOSELY CORRELATES TO THE INCIDENT OF LT COL
VINSON AND NAME).

DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED
ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE.
THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE
FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION
AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. LT COL VINSON AND NAME ARE
CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

=== REFERENCES ===

25 August 1975

REFERENCES: <1> RPT, 366TH CSG (CBPO-PA) AF FORM 484, W/STATEMENTS.

CASE: 1141

30 APR 68. <2> RPT, CAS SGN. FVS-31, 809, 18 DEC 72. <3> CDR JCRC,
BARBERS PT. HI, 182202Z SEP 91. <4> 200815Z JUL 92, CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK
TH. <5> CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH 240354Z JUL 93. <6> 061028Z JUN 90 JCRC
LIAISON BANGKOK TH. <7> CJTFFA, DET ONE 281205Z MAY 92. <8> 240556Z SEP
93 CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH.

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

28 February 1986

A NEGOTIATION FOLDER ON NAME AND BOBBY G. VINSON WAS
PASSED DURING THE 29 OCT - 1 NOV 86 JCRC/VNOSMIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN
HANOI.

4 December 1987

A CASE NARRATIVE PERTAINING TO BOTH PARTIES WAS PASSED BY JCRC ON 4
AUG 87 TO THE SRV EMBASSY IN BANGKOK PURSUANT TO AGREEMENTS REACHED
BETWEEN GENERAL VESSEY AND SRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH.

=== ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS ===

25 August 1975

ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS: NAME, AND BOBBY G. VINSON
1141-1-02.

=== MAJOR COORDINATE CHANGE ===

5 June 1975

BURIAL SITE COORDINATES OF XE 565 480 FOR DATA AND
1141-1-02 ENTERED BASED ON REPORT FVS-31,809. SRF, DATED 18 DECEMBER 1972.

5 September 1975

CHANGE LOCATION TO XE 562 479 BASED ON AF 484, & 366 TFW DANANG AB
241615Z APR 68.

8 July 1976

LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF XE565480 ENTERED BASED ON RPT, FVS-31809, 18
DEC 72.

CASE: 1141

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

2 November 1992

AN EVALUATION OF THE SITE WAS CONDUCTED DURING THE 18TH PERIOD OF JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY (INCLEMENT WEATHER PRECLUDED A FULL RECOVERY OF THE AREA). AT THIS TIME, THREE WITNESSES PROVIDED FIRST-HAND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PLANE CRASH AND TWO LOCALLY-ORGANIZED RECOVERIES. THE INCIDENT WITNESS REPORTED THAT BETWEEN 1900 AND 2000 HOURS (DATE UNKNOWN) DURING APRIL OR MAY 1968, AN AIRPLANE CRASHED IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES XE587465. THE LOCAL POPULACE DUG UP THE SITE ON TWO OCCASIONS (MAY-JULY 1987 AND 5 MARCH 1991, RESPECTIVELY). ACCORDING TO THE TWO EXCAVATION WITNESSES AND VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES, ALL REMAINS AND OTHER ITEMS RECOVERED DURING THE DIGS WERE TURNED OVER TO U.S. PERSONNEL DURING THE 17TH PERIOD OF JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY. THERE HAS BEEN NO POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THE REMAINS. NO HUMAN REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE RECOVERED DURING THE 18TH PERIOD OF FIELD ACTIVITY. HOWEVER, THE WRECKAGE RECOVERED AT THE SITE IS CONSISTENT WITH AN F4 AIRCRAFT AND SUPPORTS THE ASSERTIONS THAT NO CREW EJECTIONS WERE MADE. BASED ON THE MATERIAL EVIDENCE AND WITNESSES' ACCOUNTS, BELIEVE THIS SITE CORRELATES TO CASE 1141. RECOMMEND FULL EXCAVATION OF THE SITE. (REF 4)

13 August 1993

DURING THE PERIOD 15 JUL-16 JUL 93, A PARTIAL EXCAVATION WAS CONDUCTED NEAR VAN TRACH VILLAGE, BO TRACH DISTRICT, QUANG BINH PROVINCE, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. THE CRASH SITE HAS BEEN HEAVILY SCAVENGED AND DUG BY THE LOCAL POPULACE ON TWO PREVIOUS OCCASIONS (MAY-JUL 87 AND MAR 91) AND WAS PARTIALLY EXCAVATED DURING THE 18TH JFA. THE SITE IS LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES 48QXE5905046288. GRID COORDINATES WERE VERIFIED USING THE TRIMBLE TRIMPACK RECEIVER FOR THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM, TRACKING SEVEN SATELLITES. THE INTENT OF THE EXCAVATION WAS TO SIFT AS MUCH OF THE BACKFILL MOUNDS AS POSSIBLE IN THE TIME ALLOTTED TO ASSIST IN THE SUBSEQUENT COMPLETE EXCAVATION OF THE SITE (TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE 25TH JFA). DURING THE EXCAVATION EFFORT, ADDITIONAL PERSONAL FLYING EQUIPMENT WAS RECOVERED, BUT NO HUMAN REMAINS WERE FOUND. (REF 5)

9 September 1993

DURING THE 10TH JFA, THE JOINT TEAM OBTAINED INFORMATION CONCERNING A NIGHT TIME F4 CRASH. THE TEAM DETERMINED THAT THERE WERE THREE NIGHT TIME F4 CRASHES WITHIN 10 KILOMETERS OF THE CRASH SITE SURVEYED BY THE TEAM. NO POSITIVE CORRELATION CAN BE MADE TO ANY OF THESE THREE INCIDENTS, HOWEVER, A POSSIBLE CORRELATION TO CASE 1141 EXISTS. (REF 6)

14 September 1993

TWO LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS PROVIDED REMAINS AND MATERIAL EVIDENCE THEY CLAIM TO HAVE RECOVERED DURING A LOCALLY AUTHORIZED EXCAVATION IN MAR-JUN 91.

CASE: 1141

THE SITE THEY SHOWED THE TEAM WAS INITIALLY SURVEYED DURING THE 7TH JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY. A THIRD PERSON PROVIDED ADDITIONAL PORTIONS OF REMAINS, ALLEGEDLY TAKEN FROM THE SAME SITE DURING AN EARLIER EXCAVATION, WHILE THE TEAM WAS CONDUCTING A SURVEY. THE REMAINS APPEAR CONSISTENT WITH AN AIRCRAFT FATALITY. THE REMAINS, MATERIAL EVIDENCE, AND INFORMATION OBTAINED IN THE PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION OF THIS SITE SUGGEST A CORRELATION TO REFNO 1141. (REF 7)

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